Increase in PMGSY investments due to delay

659. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total investment originally projected for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has shot up due to delay in implementation and if so, to what extent;

(b) what is the expected shortfall in funds under Central Road Funds cess on diesel which is solely meant for PMGSY;

(c) whether to make up for the CRF shortfall the Centre is planning to seek assistance from overseas and domestic financial institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) States have prepared District Rural Road Plans and identified the Core Network. As a result of the Core Network, a better estimate is available of the magnitude of the programme. At the same time, due to the experience of the first 3 years a better estimate is also available of the construction cost. Thus, current estimate works out to Rs. 1,32,000 crore when compared to earlier estimate of Rs. 60,000 crore.

(b) to (d) While the earlier estimate of funds was Rs. 60,000 crore for the programme, the current estimate which is based on Core Network survey and availability of better estimates in the construction cost, is Rs. 1,32,000 crore. The source of funding for the PMGSY is currently the Cess on Diesel accrued into the Central Road Fund. According to Central Road Fund Act, 50% of the Diesel Cess is for Rural Roads. The funds provided from 2000-01 to 2004-05 is as under:-

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2000-01	2500
2001-02	2500
2002-03	2500
2003-04	2325
2004-05	2148

As the funds being provided under the PMGSY are inadequate to finance a Programme of this magnitude, steps have been taken to generate additional financial resources including, by way of borrowings from-the World Bank and Asian Development Bank. Loan Agreements have been signed with the World Bank for $ 399.5 m and with ADB for $ 400 m. Rs. 300 crore has been budgetted in 2004-05 on this account.

Arsenic poisoning of ground water

660. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several districts of the States and eastern region have the problem of arsenic poisoning of the ground water;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a mission existed under Government earlier to address this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof and point of time when this was discontinued; and

(d) whether Government has decided to restore the mission and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) As per the quality survey ordered in March 2000, the State Government have reported 5,029 habitations in the rural areas of the country with arsenic content in ground water higher than the permissible limit. Out of these, 4,973 habitations are in West Bengal, 45 in Bihar and 11 in Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States to accelerate coverage of rural habitations through a centrally sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The National Drinking Water Mission was set up in 1986, renamed as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) in 1991, for assisting State Governments in providing adequate quantity of drinking water of acceptable quality on a long term basis by improving performance and cost effectiveness of the on-going rural drinking water supply programmes.